CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Patriots Day

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1601020.000

Medium: Film

Distributor: Roadshow Film Distributors

Director: Peter Berg

Producer: Scott Stuber
et al.

Country of origin: United States

Language: English

Applicant: Chief Censor

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 13 years.

Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Violence, offensive language and content that may disturb.

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 27 January 2017

Date of direction to issue a label: 27 January 2017

Date of notice of decision: 27 January 2017

	Components	**Running time**
Feature(s):	Patriots Day	132:57
Total running time:		132:57

Summary of reasons for decision:

The film is a drama/thriller based on events surrounding the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, and the city-wide manhunt in the days afterwards to catch the men responsible. The film was called in by the Chief Censor under s13(3) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 due to

concerns that its M cross- rating from Australia may be too low in the New Zealand context. The film received an R rating in the United States with advisory notes for graphic injury and drug use, and a restricted 15 classification in the UK. The film is now classified R13 because it contains scenes and subject matter that would be greatly disturbing and shocking to children. This material includes shots of bodily injury and focus on terrified victims and families affected by a mindless terrorist attack. The aftermath, which includes a car-jacking, a violent street battle and the execution of a police officer in his car at point blank range, also has a high degree of impact and points to the film being aimed at older audiences with the maturity and life experience to place this material in its dramatic/historic context. This classification interferes with the right to freedom of expression contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 but is a justified limit on that right in order to prevent likely injury to the public good, and to children particularly.